

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed February 8, 2005. In order to advance prosecution of this case, Applicants amend Claims 1, 4, 9, 11 and 14, and cancel Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13 and 24 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indication by the Examiner that Claims 18-23 are directed to allowable subject matter. Applicants also note with appreciation the indication by the Examiner that Claims 5-6, 8, 10, 13, 15 & 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have re-written Claim 8 in independent form by amending Claim 1, and have re-written Claim 13 in independent form by amending Claim 11. These amendments, taken in conjunction with the cancellation of Claim 24, results in all pending claims being allowable. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

Section 102(b)/Section 103(a) Rejections

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-3, 7, 9 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,046,426 issued to Jeantette et al. ("*Jeantette*"). The Office Action also rejects Claims 4, 11-12, 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Jeantette* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,391,251 issued to Keicher et al. ("*Keicher*"). These rejections are now moot for reasons discussed above. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSIONS

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicants believe no fee is due. However, should there be a fee discrepancy, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. **02-0384** of **Baker Botts L.L.P.**

Respectfully submitted,

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